

Author of Articles on Cartoon Collecting Pursues the Same Hobby

By L. A. ("TEMPUS") FUGITT
Free Lance Cartoonist

IF anyone wants to see H. T. Webster's "Thrill That Comes Once in a Lifetime" truly emulated he has merely to be around when the postman delivers a package of original cartoons to George T. ("Gee Tee") Maxwell, clever and good-natured cartoonist and staff artist of the Wilmington, Del., News and Journal. I know of no one, unless it be the writer himself, who goes so completely ga-ga over the prospect of adding a new name and another drawing to his collection, as does George Maxwell. And when one considers that he has been avidly pursuing his hobby of collecting original cartoons for over thirty years, there is no denying the fact that it offers the maximum of interest and fascination.

There certainly is no doubt as to Mr. Maxwell's views on this score for, to use his own words, "Hobbyists may have their stamps, their coins, their books, their antiques, their Indian relics and their old prints—but give me a Nast original, a Bush original, or any one of scores of other originals by famous cartoonists and I'll venture you I shall have a greater thrill than all the others combined, and something that no one else in the world possesses". Naturally, cartoon collecting being my hobby also, I am inclined to agree with him.

By his own admission Mr. Maxwell received his first and most cherished original back in 1907 from Eugene Zimmerman (Zim), one of his favorite artists, who remained his friend during the many intervening years until his death, a few years ago, at his home in Horseheads, N. Y. During this period of close contact Zim was instrumental in adding a number of excellent originals to the Maxwell collection. And if you want to attempt something difficult, just try to get that first Zim original away from Mr. Maxwell. He wouldn't trade it for the Empire State Building!

In the old days he found the cartoonists quite responsive to his requests for originals, and some of those who sent him samples of their work later became his personal friends. Among these are Charles H. Sykes, of the Philadelphia Evening Ledger; Carey Orr, of the Chicago

Tribune; John DeMar (now deceased) of the Philadelphia Record, and many others.

"But", says Mr. Maxwell, "I find the present day cartoonists just as friendly and responsive as those of the earlier days". And to prove his point he related a recent experience wherein he wrote H. T. Webster, world famous syndicate cartoonist, to request an original which had made strong appeal to him. Despite the fact that he does not make a practice of giving his originals away promiscuously, Mr. Webster, who was wintering in Florida at the time, not only complied with Mr. Maxwell's request, but had his syndicate send the drawing to him at his home in Florida so that he could personally inscribe it before sending it on. One swell fellow, this Webster, if there ever was one! And I am sure he is typical of the profession as a whole.

In Mr. Maxwell's opinion it would be next to impossible to find any finer set of men than Eugene Zimmerman, H. T. Webster, Charles Sykes, Carey Orr, Bruce Russell and others of the cartoon fraternity, and he considers it a real privilege to be counted among their friends.

In addition to his long and distinguished career in the cartoon profession, during which time he has served such papers as the Harrisburg (Pa.) Patriot; Birmingham (Ala.) News and Age-Herald; Rochester (N. Y.) Times-Union; and the Wilmington (Delaware) Morning News and Journal Every-Evening, Mr. Maxwell is a writer of no mean ability and has written hundreds of editorials for papers in New York, West Virginia and Delaware.

Mr. Maxwell first became interested in drawing at about the time he felt the urge to accumulate a collection of original cartoons. At that time he was working on the Jacksonville (Fla.) Metropolis, now the Jacksonville Journal, and while there, had the opportunity of personally meeting and working with A. K. Taylor and E. F. Mack, Metropolis cartoonists, and Calvert Smith, then cartoonist for the Florida Times-Union. Two other cartoonists who came to the Metropolis after Mr. Maxwell left



Gee Tee Maxwell, sketched by Robert Vance, well known Delaware artist. Actually, however, it would require a small trunk rather than a portfolio to hold all the original drawings in Mr. Maxwell's collection. Mr. Maxwell has been conducting a series of articles on cartoon collecting for HOBBIES.

Jacksonville, were Muheim and Fallon. He has originals by all of these men except Fallon, and though he has tried for many years to secure one, his search so far has been fruitless. (If any reader of this story has a Fallon original he can give Mr. Maxwell a good, old-fashioned thrill by letting him know about it, especially if the owner is willing to part with it).

When, at long last, a Fallon does show up the incident doubtless will parallel similar experiences which have been Mr. Maxwell's lot. For example, he tried for a number of years to obtain an original by Homer Davenport and finally succeeded in getting one from a New York dealer. Within the following year he had the opportunity to secure at least a dozen fine originals by this artist. His experience in securing a fine original by Thos. Nast, with James G. Blaine as the central figure, was identical. However, it is his desire to own not more than one outstanding example of the work of each artist.

Mr. Maxwell speaks quite modestly of his collection and states that it is not as large as some of the others about which he has written for HOBBIES. However, the accumulation of over four hundred fine original drawings by some 370 artists ranks his collection with the best of them. And his accomplishment is all the more remarkable when you consider that he has very few sport and comic drawings, and these were all pre-

sented to him personally by the artists. Sometime ago he decided to limit his efforts to the collection of drawings dealing only with political and editorial subjects. He also has a number of autographed letters which were written to him by cartoonists from all parts of the country and which he prizes almost as highly as the cartoons which they sent him.

"In my opinion", says Mr. Maxwell, "the collecting of cartoon originals is by far one of the most interesting of all hobbies. I have cartoons by many of the 'old masters', and nothing gives me more pleasure than to look at them and bring to mind the picture of the artists who drew them as they labored over their drawing boards many years ago. To me there is nothing more true than the old Chinese proverb that 'one picture is worth a thousand words'. Therefore, a collection of cartoon originals, on down through the years, gives a more graphic picture of the events of the different periods in our history than do any number of written histories."

Mr. Maxwell has unselfishly helped others to build up their collections and on one occasion, several years ago, obtained a number of very fine old originals for United States Senator John G. Townsend, Jr., of Delaware, which the latter presented to the National Press Club at Washington. These cartoons now hang in the new building of the National Press Club in the Nation's Capital, and are known as the John G. Townsend Collection.

Frankly, I am grateful that it was Harry Stone, and not George Maxwell, who was led into that room containing some sixty thousand original cartoons, as described in Mr. Maxwell's article in January HOBBIES. Because, had it been "Gee Tee" I am sure that I should have lost one of my best friends and the cartoon profession would have been deprived of one of its outstanding performers. For there is no doubt that the supreme thrill and excitement of such a wondrous sight would have brought on palpitation of the epiglottis, high blood pressure, fallen arches, and a complication of other equally dreaded ailments, a condition which he could not possibly have survived.

It is my fervent hope that he will be able to pursue his beloved hobby after he departs from this mundane sphere (many years hence, I hope), because that really would be Heaven for "Gee Tee".

Mr. Maxwell's collection includes excellent examples of the work of the following artists:

J. P. Alley, E. Angelo, Roy Aymond, Johnny Anderson, F. O. Alexander, Evan Armstrong, C. W. Anderson, Norman Anthony, Ambrose, F. G. Atwood, Gene Ahern, C. D.

Batchelor, John Baer, Bronstrup, Bel-
lew, R. M. Brinkerhoff, W. F. Bruton,
Andre Bowles, C. K. Berryman, Clare
Briggs, Fred A. Ball, R. C. Bowman,
Paul Battenfield, Dan Beard, C.
L. (Bart) Bartholomew, Blackstone,
Daniel Bishop, Peggy Bacon, Charles
Bell, E. A. Bushnell, McKee Barclay,
Ralph Barton, L. D. Bradley, Watson
Brand, S. S. Byck, Allen Brown,
Leon Barritt, Buel, Beauregard, Ted
Brown, Bressler, Bruce Bairnsfather,
C. G. Bush, Beck, Paul Bloser, Brew-
erton, Matt Caine, Jesse Cargill, H.
I. Carlisle, Nate Collier, Chamberlain,
Jerry Costello, V. Floyd Campbell, W.
Carson, Willard Combes, Chip, Otho
Cushing, Oscar Cesare, Joseph Cowan,
P. J. Carter, Robert Carter, R. H.
Craft, John Cassell, Will Crawford,
Franklin Collier, Cross, F. G. Cooper,
J. Campbell Cory, Will Carroll, Chase,
Harrison Cady, Sam Cauffman, Jr.,
A. B. Chapin, George Clark, C. Claus,
John Scott Clubb, Palmer Cox, Cher-
om, Cusachs, C. H., and Bob Coyne.

Homer Davenport, J. H. Donahey,
Billy DeBeck, Rudolph Dirks, John
DeMar, Jerry Doyle, Arch Dale, Ir-
vin Dugan, Dennis, Harry Grant Dart,
Dunning, Dahl, J. N. (Ding) Darling,
Louis Dalrymple, Edmund Duffy,
Clare (Dwig) Dwiggin, Walt Dis-
ney, DeBow, T. A. (Tad) Dorgan,
Gene Elderman, Ehrhart, Ray Evans,

George Wharton Edwards, Robert
Ellis, W. J. Enright, Harrison Fisher,
F. M. Follett, Frueh, Craig Fox,
Fornaro, Fontaine Fox, Al Forbell,
Tom Foley, L. A. Fugitt, R. B. Fuller,
William Ferguson, James Montgom-
ery Flagg, J. C. Foster, D. R. Fitz-
patrick, Gale, Hy Gage, Gallaway,
Clarence Gray, L. M. Glackens, Bern-
hard Gillam, Victor Gillam, F. Graetz,
Nelson Greene, Grue, Gordon Grant,
Gossett, Charles Dana Gibson, Wal-
lace Goldsmith, L. C. Gregg, J. Gris-
wold, Garrett, Frank Godwin, Johnny
Gruelle, W. M. Goodes, Gropper, Milt
Gross, Syd B. Griffin, Milton Halla-
day, Walt Huber, J. F. Hunter, Grant
Hamilton, Hassman, F. M. Hutchins,
Wilfred Huggins, Hooper, Ernest
Henderson, B. F. Hammond, H. H.
Harper, Nelson Harding, Hoff, Hess,
Lou Hanlon, Hilton, Hugh Hutton,
Cy Hungerford, F. Hanley, Oscar
Hitt, Fred Harman, D. Hand, William
Hanny, Herbert (Herblock) Block,
Hofacker, Don Herold, and H. E.
Homan.

William Ireland, Herbert Johnson,
Vic Johnson, Earl S. Johnston, Will
B. Johnstone, Scott Johnson, Charles
H. Johnson, Jerome, Cecil Jensen,
Hayden Jones, R. Jennings, Ed Keu-
kes, Kettner, J. W. Kent, Harry Keys,
Joseph Keppler, John Knott, Rollin

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Geo. Wharton Edwards, Robert Ellis, W. J. Enright, Harrison Fisher, F. M. Follett, Frueh, Craig Fox, Fornaro, Fontaine Fox, Al Forbell, Tom Foley, L. A. Fugitt, R. B. Fuller, William Ferguson, James Montgomery Flagg, J. C. Foster, D. R. Fitzpatrick, Gale, Hy Gage, Gallaway, Clarence Gray, L. M. Glackens, Bernhard Gillam, Victor Gillam, F. Graetz, Nelson Greene, Grue, Gordon Grant, Gossett, Charles Dana Gibson, Wallace Goldsmith, L. C. Gregg, J. Griswold, Garrett, Frank Godwin, Johnny Gruelle, W. M. Goodes, Gropper, Milt Gross, Syd B. Griffin, Milton Halladay, Walt Huber, J. F. Hunter, Grant Hamilton, Hassman, F. M. Hutchins, Wilfred Huggins, Hooper, Ernest Henderson, B. F. Hammond, H. H. Harper, Nelson Harding, Hoff, Hess, Lou Hanlon, Hilton, Hugh Hutton, Cy Hungerford, F. Hanley, Oscar Hitt, Fred Harman, D. Hand, William Hanny, Herbert (Herblock) Block, Hofacker, Don Herold, and H. E. Homan.

Rare old photograph, taken more than half a century ago, of the editorial and art staff of Judge Magazine and bearing the autographs of each person represented in the picture. In the foreground are the "big three" of cartooning, famous artists on the Judge staff whose cartoons had a national following. They are Grant E. Hamilton, Bernhard Gillam and Eugene (Zim) Zimmerman. This photograph is a part of the collection of Gee Tee Maxwell, who also has original cartoons by Messrs. Hamilton, Gillam and Zimmerman. A "Zim" original was the first of Mr. Maxwell's large collection.

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Kirby, Joseph Keppler, Jr., Rose J. Kennedy, Koerner, Jack Knox, E. W. Kemble, Karl Kae Knecht, Charles Kuhn, C. W. Kahles, Peter Kramer, Clifford Knight, Maurice Ketten, Albert Levering, Larimer, Lanning, Herschel C. Logan, George B. Luks, R. A. Lewis, Limbach, Bill Loring, Lowry, J. Norman Lynd, Long, E. F. Mack, Walt McDougall, Harry Murphy, Jefferson Machamer, Henry Major, Winsor McCay, Hy Mayer, Ole May, John T. McCutcheon, C. R. Macauley, C. L. Mortison, Gerry Maloney, Elmer Messner, Munhall, Reg Manning, Jack Morley, Fred Morgan, J. E. Murphy, Stuart Morris, W. C. Morris, Edmund Marcus, Minor, Kenneth Maher, Meb, Muheim, and Massaguer.

Frank A. Nankivell, Naughton, Roy Nelson, Norman, Thomas Nast, Charles Nelan, Fred Neher, Peter Newell, Carey Orr, F. Oppen, Rose O'Neill, Newton Pratt, J. Patton, C. F. Peters, Paul Flaschke, Lute Pease, George Patzer, Phil Porter, Packer, J. S. Pughe, Palmer, W. K. Patrick, T. E. Powers, Joe Parrish, Paul Pim, Jack Patton, Post, Louis A. Paige, Parsons, Grover Page, M. L. Pritchett, John Padgett, S. J. Ray, W. A. Rogers, Rigby, George Rehse, Bruce Russell, Rossman, Manuel Rosenberg, Ross, Albert C. Reid, F. T. Richards, Ray Rohn, Theodore J. Richard, Tige Reynolds, Carl Rose, Boardman Robinson, F. W. Reed, Herb Roth, Ralph S. Reichold, Fermin Rucker, C. E. Ray, H. G. Racey, Norman Ritchie, Robert Satterfield, Frank Schoonover, Calvert Smith, William H. Summers, Carl Somdal, Ray Snow, Steele, Fred O. Seibel, C. J. Sweigert, Dorman H. Smith, A. R. Stowe, W. K. Starrett, Edgar F. Schilder, T. S. Sullivant, Schroeder, Spencer, Park Sumner, Claude Shafer, Penrhyn Stanlaws, Quincy Scott, Vaughan Shoemaker, Homer Stinson, G. W. Stephens, Frank M. Spangler, Charles Sykes, Scar, Seal, and Small.

A. K. Taylor, C. J. Taylor, H. M. Talburt, Miles Tully, Rodney Thomson, Keith Temple, J. C. T., Thorndike, Bert Thomas, Leo Thiele, Lui Trugo, R. Van Buren, Verbeck, K. Vintoux, Van Leshout, Vic, Robert Vance, Frederick W. Van Loon, J. A. Wales, Wahl, A. Walbek, Ralph Wilder, Gaar Williams, J. S. Williams, H. T. Webster, M. Woolf, W. G. Washburn, O. P. Williams, Gluyas Williams, W. H. Walker, Ryan Walker, Charles G. Werner, F. J. Willson, Clive Weed, Jack Wilson, Billy Warren, Len Warren, Wilder, Thomas Worth, George White, Frank Wing, Westerman, A. Weil, Art Young, Robert York, and Eugene (Zim) Zimmerman.